

NEWS RELEASE

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Project Safe Neighborhoods: Grand Jury Charges Springfield Man with Gun and Drug Offenses

Springfield, IL- A federal grand jury returned a seven-count indictment today charging a Springfield, Illinois man with drug and gun offenses. Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that Gordon Allan Smith, age 24, of 513 Appomatox, was charged with two counts of possession with intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana; two counts of carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking offense, two counts of possession of a firearm by a felon, and one count of possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number.

The indictment alleges Smith possessed cocaine and marijuana on two occasions: on March 21, 2006 in Springfield and on September 25, 2006, in Taylorville, Illinois. In relation to Smith's alleged possession of cocaine and marijuana on March 21, 2006, the indictment alleges Smith carried a loaded .22 caliber pistol and possessed another loaded .25 caliber pistol with an obliterated serial number. On September 25, 2006, in Taylorville, the indictment alleges Smith carried a loaded .22 caliber pistol. On both occasions, the indictment alleges Smith was a convicted felon.

Smith was arrested and charged by criminal complaint after the vehicle he was a passenger in was stopped by Taylorville Police officers for a traffic violation on September 25, 2006. Following a detention hearing, Smith has been ordered held without bond pending trial.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration; Taylorville Police Department; Springfield Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory K. Harris is prosecuting the case.

If convicted, the statutory penalty for possession with intent to distribute cocaine is 10 years to life in prison. For carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking offense, the penalty is a mandatory minimum five years imprisonment to be served consecutive to any prison term ordered for the underlying drug trafficking offense. If convicted of the second offense of carrying a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking offense, the mandatory minimum penalty is 25 years in prison served consecutive to any term ordered for the underlying drug trafficking offense. If convicted for possession of a firearm as a felon, the statutory penalty is up to 10 years in prison. Possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number is punishable by up to five years imprisonment.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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